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TS-159161-62
Copy No. 1 of 6 copies
26 July 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, NPIC

THROUGH: Executive Director, NPIC

SUBJECT: NPIC Film Evaluation

- REFERENCES:
- (a) Memorandum from Chief, Technical Plans & Development Staff, NPIC, to Director, NPIC, dated 24 July 1962; subject: Technical Evaluation of Satellite Photographic Reconnaissance Materials (TCS-12891-62-KH)
 - (b) Memorandum from Under Secretary of the Air Force to Mr. R. M. Bissell, Jr., dated 3 November 1961; subject: Establishment of a Standing Group for the Technical Evaluation of Satellite Reconnaissance Photography (D-2016)
 - (c) Memorandum from Under Secretary of the Air Force to Deputy Director (Plans), dated 11 January 1962 (D-2007)
 - (d) Memorandum for the Record from Lt/Col. C. E. James, dated 23 January 1962; subject: Minutes of 23 January Meeting on Criteria for Film Evaluation (D-2018)

1. In order to effect, anticipating your concurrence, the recommendation noted in reference (a), I have taken the following steps. I contacted [redacted] and told him that it is indeed NPIC's desire to perform the evaluation in order to meet their requirements as stated in reference (a). Recognizing that NPIC is currently handicapped by inadequacies of personnel and space to undertake this program on its own, but also appreciating the urgency for initiating the program, the only logical means for insuring its accomplishment is presently through the use of contract personnel to assist NPIC. To this end, I requested that [redacted] officially propose to NPIC to provide this assistance. The manner that seems the most practical for this would be to have a contractor, such as [redacted] as prime with sub-contractors furnished by other interested commercial organizations, such as Itek, Eastman Kodak, etc. I made it clear to John that such a program would necessarily be performed under the management and direction of NPIC to meet the requirements, preferably in TID. The proposal should indicate that such a team would convene and meet at NPIC immediately following the receipt of the original material by NPIC. [redacted] contacted AFSSD, namely Capt. Bill Johnson, for their concurrence in such an approach. This was received by cable from AFSSD with a note that the program should get under way as soon as possible.

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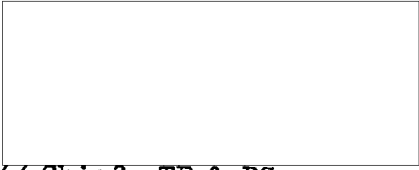
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TS-159161-62

2. In order to properly set things in motion, I suggest that a letter be prepared for your signature, perhaps through Dr. Scoville, to Director, NRO, informing them of our plans to undertake the evaluation program henceforth and indicating that, in view of this action, NPIC feels that the continuence of the AFSPPPL evaluation program, for the reasons noted in reference (a), be discontinued after the completion of their current report.


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Chief, TP & DS

Enclosures: Four referenced memoranda

Distribution:

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NPIC/TP&DS 

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MEMORANDUM FOR MR. R. M. BISELL, JR.

SUBJECT: Establishment of a Standing Group for the Technical Evaluation of Satellite Reconnaissance Photography

We have been increasingly interested in the amount of technical data being obtained from satellite photography and the methods of providing this data to the Directors of Program I and Program II and the Aerial Reconnaissance Laboratory, ASD. We find that useful engineering data is being subordinated by the high priority of intelligence information.

Furthermore the compartmentation of operational and intelligence activities into separate secure facilities using separate and special clearances makes it difficult to generate an exchange of information. It is expected that these physical and administrative barriers will continue to retard the desired exchange of technical data which could be useful in improving the performance of satellite reconnaissance systems.

I suggest that we appoint a group of technically qualified persons enjoined with the responsibility of reviewing the results of satellite reconnaissance missions for the specific purpose of accomplishing an engineering evaluation. The intent of this group will be to make recommendations for the improvement of subsequent missions.

The following group, who are currently appropriately cleared and technically qualified, would meet on a periodic basis to determine the characteristics of the photography and the causes of any undesirable effects:

Mr. Arthur Lundahl, Director, NPIC
 [redacted] Director of Research, NPIC
 [redacted] Chief Photographic Officer, DDP
 Col William King, Director, Program I, SAFEP
 Col Paul Heran, Director, Program II, SAFEP
 Col Lee Battle, Director of Discoverer Program, SSD
 Maj Edward Conway, Photographic Engineer, SAFEP
 Lt Col L. A. Williams, Director of Research, AFEPPL
 Mr. Leonard W. Crouch, Reconnaissance Laboratory, ASD
 Lt Col C. E. James, Asst for Photography, SAFMS
 Maj H. C. Howard, Asst for Systems Engineering, SAFMS

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NPIC		22 Jan 64					12 Feb 62

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D2007

11 JAN 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR DEPUTY DIRECTOR (PLANS) CIA

In reviewing the film from our most recent mission (9029) it was again brought to my attention that a quantitative analysis should be made of each mission. For example, this mission has been reviewed by both of the associate contractors, representatives of our two offices, and many members of the intelligence community. Yet we do not have an evaluation of engineering test showing the specific tradeoffs between SO 132 and SO 130 and how they compared in exposure, contrast and informational content. Since this information was not available a decision has been made to use SO 130 in our forthcoming mission.

I therefore propose that each mission be formally analyzed for engineering purposes and the results be tabulated for operational and engineering guidance. If this is satisfactory to you I will make provisions for the original negatives to be subjected to a thorough analysis at AFSPPL. This facility has the photographic instrumentation and trained technicians to accomplish a quantitative analysis of each mission. During this analysis the capability of the AFSPPL will be complimented by engineering advisors from the contractors and your organization as we deem necessary. I suggest that as soon as the production of prints for the intelligence purposes is completed, the original negatives be released to AFSPPL to begin this analysis. The analysis will be based on criteria approved by the following group.

Lt Colonel C. E. James, Chairman



Maj Henry Howard, SAFMS

Lt Col L. H. Williams, R&D Dir AFSPPL

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Joseph V. Charyk

Under Secretary of the Air Force

D-2007

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NPIC 50X1

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23 January 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes of 23 Jan Meeting on Criteria for Film Evaluation

Attending: Lt Col C. E. James, Chairman



Major Henry Howard, SAFMS

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1. The purpose of the meeting was to approve procedures and criteria to be used in tabulating the quantitative characteristics of film from satellite reconnaissance missions as requested by SAFUS in memorandum to DPD dated 11 Jan 62.

2. The format of the SPPL technical report entitled "Test and Technical Evaluation Report" was reviewed and agreed upon as the format to be used as guidance in preparing the initial report. After the first report has been prepared the group will make a more detailed study of its adequacy in documenting the non-subjective aspects of film from satellite reconnaissance missions.

3. Distribution of the first report will be limited to three copies: 1 - SAFUS, 1 - Director(Plans) CIA, and 1 - Director, NPIC.

4. To expedite the first report and have it available for review on 15 February it was agreed that only one-half of the passes in mission 2029 (including 3 rolls which have both SO 130 and SO 132) would be evaluated. NPIC and SPPL will collaborate on the selection of representative passes.

5. Arrangements will be made between NPIC and SPPL for pick-up of the original negative from NPIC on 30 January. It is agreed that NPIC intelligence requirements have priority on use of original negatives. Negatives at SPPL will be returned to NPIC when given 24 hours notice by NPIC.

6. NPIC will provide SPPL with ephemeris data to include solar angle, latitude and longitude of each negative format.

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7. SPPL will make provisions for camera data from mission 2029 to be included at later date as an annex to the reports.

8. In view of the space and personnel limitations at NPIC it is not feasible at this time to provide the facilities to perform this analysis in the depth required. NPIC technical personnel will, however, participate in the evaluation at the SPPL.

9. It was the conclusion of the group that the type of analysis required could not be properly accomplished by the participating contractors. However within security limitations the technical support at the participating contractors will be fully used on a consultant basis.

10. [redacted], NPIC; Captain Lisciotti, SAFMS; and Captain Saylor, AFSPPL, will prescribe the appropriate security measures for transportation and storage of the original negatives.

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11. It was agreed that DDP would arrange for unexposed samples of film to be made available from future missions for comparative sensitometric tests.

12. DDP will also determine the feasibility of printing one or more sensitometric strips on the flight material prior to loading.

C. E. James

C. E. JAMES
 Lt Colonel, USAF
 Chairman, Committee to
 Establish Criteria for Film
 Evaluation

SAFUS

DDP [redacted]

NPIC [redacted]

AFSPPL (Col Ohlmeyer,
 w/cy 11 Jan ltr)

SAFSP (Gen Greer,
 w/cy 3 Nov & 11 Jan ltrs)

SAFMS

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